

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

2/14/80

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01346 142019Z
ACTION ARA-15

5806

BUENOS 01346 142019Z

A1055

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 10-14 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 IMRE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /085 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4283

BUENOS AIRES 1346

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/14/86 (CASTRO, RAUL H.) OR-H
TAGS: SHUM EAGR EEWI AR
SUBJECT: (C) GENERAL VIOLA AND AMBASSADOR DISCUSS BILATERAL
RELATIONS

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT MY INVITATION, GENERAL (R) AND MRS. VIOLA LUNCHEON
AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE TUESDAY (FEB. 12). THE VIOLAS WERE
ACCOMPANIED BY ELBIO AND MRS. FERNANDEZ, LONG-TIME FRIENDS.
MR. FERNANDEZ IS A LOCALLY WELL-KNOWN PAINTER. KEY POINTS
DISCUSSED DURING LUNCHEON FOLLOW:

3. EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, VIOLA INTENDS TO DEVOTE FULL TIME
TO COVERING COUNTRY AND BUILDING UP HIS IMAGE AS ARGENTINA'S
NEXT PRESIDENT. HE EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER ESTABLISH-
ING BETTER RAPPORT WITH MIDDLE CLASS AND BELOW.

4. VIOLA EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE HE HAD FULL SUPPORT OF ARMY
AND MOST KEY OFFICERS IN AF AND NAVY. ALTHOUGH VIOLA
WAS CONFIDENT IN HIS BEING ARGENTINA'S NEXT PRESIDENT,
HE DID CAUTION HE HIS APPOINTMENT WOULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT
SOME POLITICAL BLOODSHED. HE TOLD ME THERE IS A CERTAIN
SEGMENT WITHIN THE MILITARY WHO ARE TRYING TO UPSET
HIS APPLE CART. HE DIDN'T MENTION NAMES, BUT DID SAY
HE COULD HANDLE THEM.

5. VIOLA MENTIONED HE HAD RECEIVED TWO LETTERS FROM
TWO US ARMY DELEGATES TO BOGOTA ARMY COMMANDERS CON-
FERENCE. HE MENTIONED ONE WAS US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.
VIOLA SPOKE IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN
ARMY COMMANDERS AND CHIEFS OF STAFF. HE FELT SAME COULD,
BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH OTHER ARMED SERVICES. VIOLA SPOKE
MOST HIGHLY OF USG DELEGATION TO BOGOTA CONFERENCE.
VIOLA STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE GENERAL GALTIERI
INVITED TO US.

6. ANTICIPATING A STRONG REPORT, VIOLA WAS MUCH
RELIEVED WITH USG REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE STATED
REPORT WAS FAIRLY WELL BALANCED AND CERTAINLY ONE GOA
COULD LIVE WITH. HE DIDN'T EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN
OVER OAS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS. HE STATED OAS
REPORT WAS UNFAIR AND DIDN'T HAVE THE CREDIBILITY OF
USG REPORT. HE ALSO STATED IN ALL PROBABILITY GOA
WOULD BE ABLE TO SIDE-TRACK THE UN REPORT.

7. I EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN TO VIOLA ABOUT GOA GETTING
TOO DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH THE SOVIETS AND THEN BEING
UNABLE TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM THE SOVIET
TENTACLES. HE DID EXPRESS SOME CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE
OVER-INVOLEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS. HE WAS CERTAIN
THIS WAS A TEMPORARY MANEUVER. VIOLA USED THE CLICHE
HE HAD DRIVEN GOA INTO THE RUSSIAN BEAR'S LAIR BY NOT
SUPPORTING GOA IN THE INTERNATIONAL BODIES.

8. VIOLA STATED USG-GOA RELATIONS WERE ON A NEW PHASE.
HE TOTALLY ENDORSED THE COOPPASTER MISSION AND PREDICTED

GREAT IMPROVEMENTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

9. GENERAL VIOLA PREDICTED POSSIBLE LABOR STRIFE
DURING THE END OF MARCH AND ALL OF APRIL. HE STATED
THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE DEFUSED WITH PROPER HANDLING.

10. MRS. VIOLA APPARENTLY IS VERY PRO-AMERICAN AND
SPEAKS VERY FONDLY OF HER TWO YEARS IN THE UNITED
STATES. SHE TOLD HE HUSBAND TO BUY A HOME IN THE
UNITED STATES FOR IT IS THE COUNTRY SHE MOST ENJOYS.
GENERAL VIOLA HAS ALWAYS EXPRESSED STRONG TIES TO U.S.
CASTRO

Handwritten signature and initials

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

LOT 82D177

BOX 8114 (2/21)